

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

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Finding: Economic Factors

The ability to effectively manage forest fuels is impeded by economic factors that are unique to the Tahoe Basin.

Background and Supporting Evidence:

The forest management industry, wood processing facilities, and skilled labor force in the Lake Tahoe Basin are inadequate to effectively manage the quantity of forest fuels that need to be mitigated in order to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

The amount of funding available to implement forest management projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin is inadequate, uncertain, and difficult to manage through grants and contracting rules.

Recommendation(s)

1. Streamline State contracting requirements for fuels reduction projects through an Emergency Declaration process.
2. Establish either a year-round or summer-seasonal Inmate Camp near the Lake Tahoe Basin on the California side. Possible locations include expansion of the US Forest Service Hobart Work Center located north of Truckee along Highway 89, or a summer spike camp at the Placer County Transfer Station on Cabin Creek Road south of Truckee.
3. Establish permanent annual funding for forest fuels management on State Lands from State Budgets to reduce dependence on Federal grants which are time consuming and require more administrative costs.
4. Establish a Basin-wide biomass program with numerous drop-off/collection sites for vegetative debris and wood chips to accommodate scattered small projects and produce sufficient volume to support an industry.

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

- ☐ Cost Costs of implementing fuels reduction projects will decrease by streamlining contracting, providing low cost labor from a new inmate camp, decreasing administrative costs of grant management, and providing biomass drop-offs close to project locations.
- ☐ Funding source Funding source will be more certain if directly from each public agency's budget resulting in improved efficiency and lower administrative costs.
- ☐ Staffing Staffing an inmate camp in California close to the Tahoe Basin will improve efficiency and provide for increased production in implementing fuels reduction projects.
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws Existing contracting rules may be streamlined by an emergency declaration. Permitting a biomass facility in the Lake Tahoe Basin may be impracticable, but several biomass transfer stations could serve equally well or better.

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational Operational constraints will be decreased and efficiency will be improved.
- ☐ Social Public education should be addressed in a separate Finding.
- ☐ Political Expanding biomass opportunities through development of drop-off points or transfer stations will be politically advantageous for all supporters.
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety Health and Safety will be better protected.
- ☐ Environmental Risk of catastrophic wildfire will be decreased.
- ☐ Interagency Interagency coordination will be improved.